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H.C.R. No. 13

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Canadian travelers to the United States may stay in
2 this country for up to six months, while Mexican visitors only
3 recently gained the right to a 30-day stay with a laser visa under
4 an expansion of the United States Visitor and Immigrant Status
5 Indicator Technology (US-VISIT) program, which previously limited
6 such stays to 72 hours and no more than 25 miles inside the U.S.
7 border; and

8 WHEREAS, Aside from adversely affecting international
9 goodwill between the United States and its neighbors to the north
10 and south by the disparate treatment of their citizens, this
11 disparity also has a negative impact on the economic stability of
12 the U.S.-Mexico border; and

13 WHEREAS, If Mexican tourists, businesspersons, and other
14 short-term travelers received the same opportunities to visit and
15 do business in the United States as their Canadian counterparts, it
16 would facilitate business between the United States and Mexico,
17 boosting the U.S. and Texas economies; and

18 WHEREAS, El Paso and other Texas border communities that
19 directly benefit from cross-border travel may expect a dramatic
20 increase in local economic development if the length of stay for
21 Mexican nationals with laser visas is extended from 30 days to six
22 months; and

23 WHEREAS, Local community leaders attending a recent
24 gathering of the U.S. Hispanic Chambers of Commerce were assured by

1 U.S. Department of Homeland Security Undersecretary Asa Hutchinson
2 that the Bush Administration supports treating all international
3 guests equally; and

4 WHEREAS, U.S. Senator John Cornyn and U.S. Representative
5 Ruben Hinojosa, both of Texas, introduced legislation in the 108th
6 Congress (S.1908 and H.R. 3488, respectively) to allow Mexican
7 nationals currently admissible under laser visa border crossing
8 regulations to enter the United States as six-month nonimmigrant
9 visitors; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas
11 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to
12 support parity for Mexican visitors to the United States by
13 enacting legislation that would allow them the same six-month
14 length of stay afforded to Canadian travelers; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
16 copies of this resolution to the U.S. Department of Homeland
17 Security and U.S. Department of State and to the president of the
18 United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and
19 the president of the senate of the United States Congress, and to
20 all the members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the
21 request that this resolution be officially entered in the
22 Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United
23 States of America.